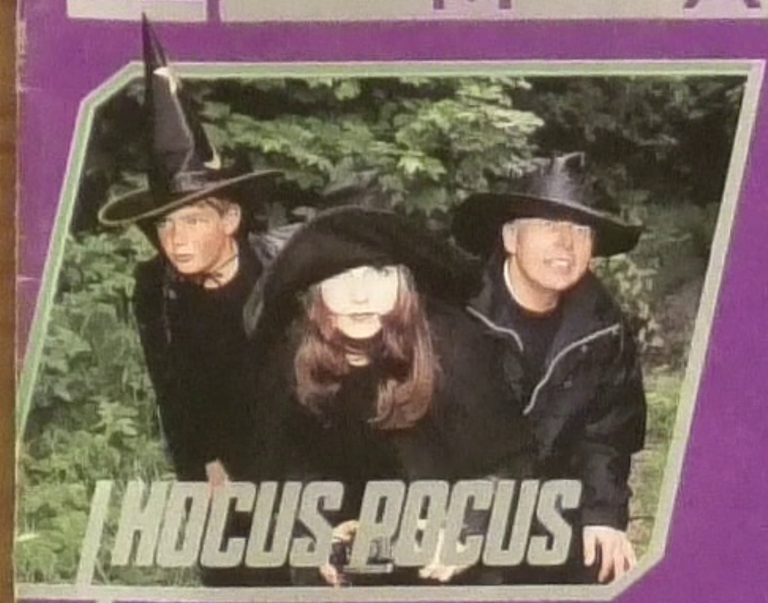
MIGHTY MATILDA POSTER INSIDE!

ROBOT WARS

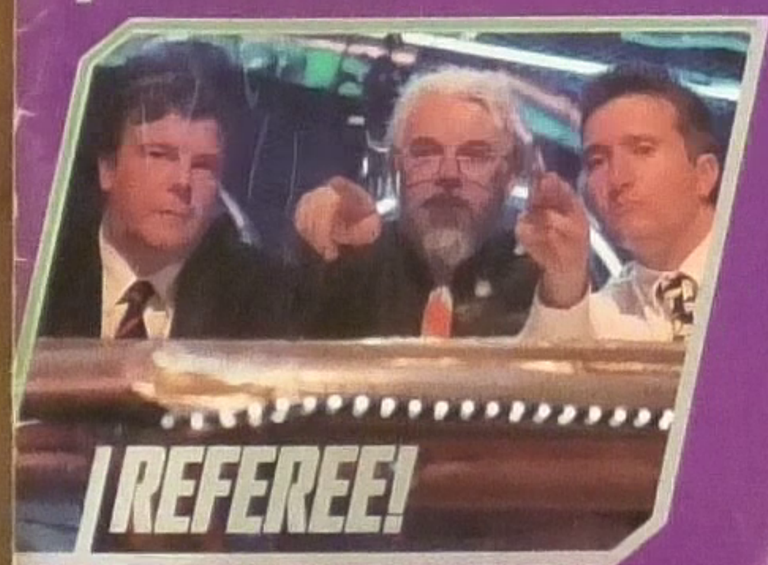
ROBOT WARS

MAGAZINE



HOCUS POCUS

with the witch



REFEREE!

judges reveal all

SGT. BASH

barmy army

under the axe of

SHUNT!

ISSUE 4 / JULY / £1·50

100% OFFICIAL 100% ACTION

9 771469 229004 07 BBC

ROBOT WARS

ISSUE 04 / JULY 2000

WHAT'S IN RWM THIS MONTH?

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RWM@BBC.CO.UK

EDITOR Mike Collier
ART EDITOR Peter Fickling
SUB-EDITOR/WRITER David Hayles, Sarah Armstrong-Prior
DESIGNER Simon Oliver
PICTURE RESEARCHER Emma Peel
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Kelly Austin
ADVERTISING David Gibson 020 8433 2683
MARKETING EXECUTIVE Marion Slaughter 020 8433 2790
MARKETING MANAGER Helen Nothard
MARKETING ASSISTANT Tessa Gemmel 020 8433 2998
PRODUCTION Morag Gillett, Jo Beattie,
CIRCULATION MANAGER Simon Young
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Alhe Lewis
PUBLISHER Lindsaye Fox
EDITOR, BOYS' MAGAZINES Jason Loborik
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, FAMILY GROUP Nicky Smith
DIRECTOR, FAMILY GROUP [UK REGION] Gillian Laskier
MANAGING DIRECTOR, BBC WORLDWIDE [UK REGION] Peter Teague

COMPETITION ENQUIRIES 0208 433 2998

CONTRIBUTORS Sam Bailey, Rosie Rolyusi, Nathan Cockerill, Pete Collier, Alan Craddock, Jacques Gauthier, Bill Hobbins, Ben Lewis, John Ross, Bernadette Russell
PHOTOGRAPHY Chris Capstick, Sharon Price, Richard Ogden, Mike Collier, David Hayles
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the latest news from the pits...

THE WARS, PART FOUR

Preparations for Series IV of the wars are well underway - RWM has been told that it is being filmed in August and will hit TV screens late September. The first episode will be a preview show, outlining the new format of the series. Can't wait!

GRIPPING HECK

Contestant robots for Series IV, be very afraid - Sir Killalot is going to be equipped with a snipper that Chris Reynolds claims will cause major damage. "You're going to see us crushing robots into little parcels of metal," says the BBC head of Visual Effects. RWM got this top-secret shot so that potential competitors can see what they're up against. K-rikey!

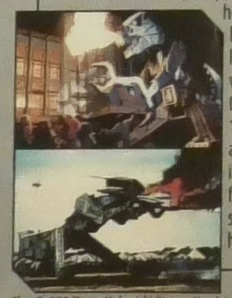
...and from around the world...

NIGHTMARE!!!

Imagine if your sister got hold of your robot blueprints and made them all girly. Well RWM has found the results... these PETS (Personal Electronic Teller of Stories) are being made at the US University of Maryland. Kids can use them to tell stories about how they feel. Yuck!

CAR-NIVOROUS BOT

If microbot Ants (see page 24) don't tickle your toes, how about something a little larger... well, about 40 feet larger, actually. Robosaurus was invented by an American, Doug Malewicki, back in the 1980s. The giant bot travels all around the States crushing cars in his teeth and throwing flames... cool, or should we say hot?! What would the house bots make of him?



Pics © BBC/Doug Malewicki/University of Maryland, Jaime Montemayor/NASA/JPL/CALTECH/Paramount Pictures 1996

SAFETY WARNING!

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BUILD OR OPERATE A ROBOT WITHOUT FIRST JOINING THE RW CLUB AND GETTING THEIR SAFETY GUIDELINES. SEE PAGE 12 FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO JOIN!

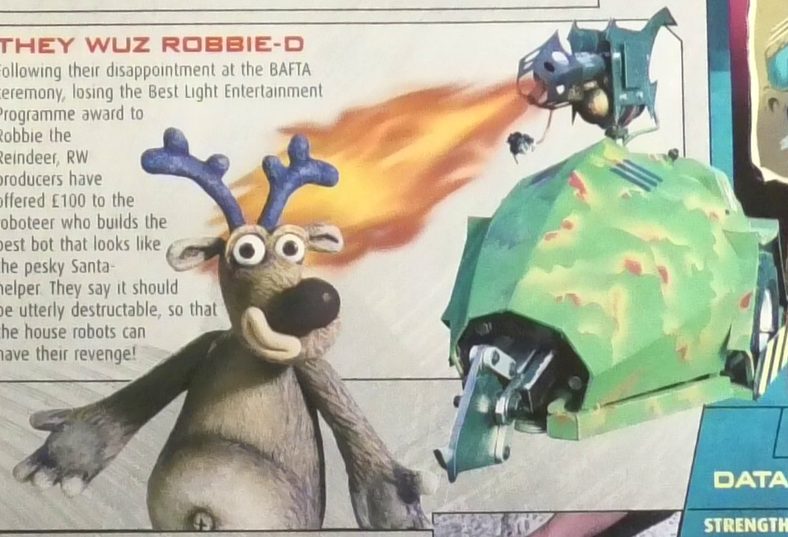
robot report

CAR WARS

One of the biggest problems roboteers have is how to keep their bots in training while Robot Wars is off the air. Vinnie Blood and Team Razer have come up with a solution to make sure their World Champ bot is fighting fit for Series IV later this year. They sent these pics of Razer snacking on Vinnie's car (it's going to be scrapped soon anyway), and with Mortis, mangling a tank.

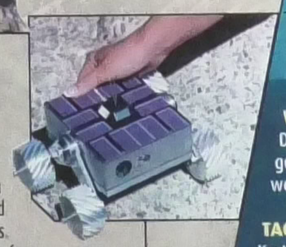
THEY WUZ ROBBIE-D

Following their disappointment at the BAFTA ceremony, losing the Best Light Entertainment Programme award to Robbie the Reindeer, RW producers have offered £100 to the roboteer who builds the best bot that looks like the pesky Santa-helper. They say it should be utterly destructable, so that the house robots can have their revenge!



HAPPY HOPPER

Researchers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California have made a giant leap for robot-kind by developing a probe that can hop across the surface of the asteroid it explores. The JPL rover has wheels mounted on adjustable struts, which, when pulled together, allow it to jump obstacles. We reckon it would also be handy for avoiding stepping in space doggy doos!



PRETTY POLYMORPH

What would Robot Wars be like without people to build the robots in the first place? Not much fun to watch, you'd think. But you'd be wrong. In the future, roboteers might find themselves on the scrap heap, if plans for a robot that can design and build itself goes ahead. Scientists in Massachusetts are developing a 'polymorphic' shape-shifting robot that will be able to adapt to unpredictable environments. That'll be the RW arena then.

CLOSE ENOUGH?

Never let it be said that RWM doesn't deliver the goods. From the beginning we promised to get you closer to the action. Take a look at your exclusive Sir Killalot 3D poster: is that close enough for you?! Want some more? Well look no further! A word of warning though... our reporter went into the woods on a mission to get the story on contestant bot The Witch and its roboteers, and it was no picnic. You've been warned.

THE EDITORS

FANTASY FIGHT

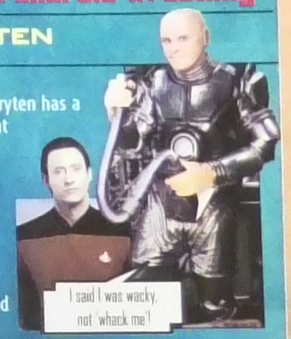
tag team android wrestling

DATA & KRYTEN

STRENGTHS
Data is smart and logical. Kryten has a head like a roll-on deodorant

WEAKNESSES
Data worries about his hair getting messed up, Kryten worries about being bald

TACTIC
Kryten kneels behind android and Data pushes him over backwards



RW ANDROID & THE BORG

STRENGTHS
Android is expert at backflips, has icy stare. Borg can 'absorb' bots (and Kryten's vacuum cleaner)

WEAKNESSES
Both like wandering round in the dark, so keep bumping into things

TACTIC
Assimilate droids and take over universe

RESULT
Kryten and Data hide but are given away by Kryten's chattering teeth. They beg for mercy and promise to do all their opponents' housework for a whole month

THE ORIGIN OF SGT BASH PART ONE

IOWAHA!

DEEP IN THE AMAZON RAINFORESTS, SOME DARK MAGIC IS AT WORK.

AIIEEE!!!

ROOOAAR!!

WhooOMP

IT'S NOT A FOREST SPIRIT... IT'S SOMETHING EVEN MORE SINISTER...

KARPOV, WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THOSE *TARPA** NERDS ABOUT ROBOTS. THIS *SGTB*** PROJECT WILL GIVE THE ULTIMATE FIGHTING MACHINE TO THE *US* ARMY. AND WHO'S GOING TO GET THE GLORY?

WHO, SIR?

*TECHNICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY

**SECOND GENERATION TACTICAL BATTLE

BUT IF IT'S NOT OFFICIAL, WHERE DOES HE GET HIS FUNDING?

STEVE STEVENSON, ONE OF THE RICHEST – AND MOST DANGEROUS – MEN IN AMERICA. HE'S FUNDING THE ENTIRE OPERATION.

MCCARTHY'S MAD SCHEMES ARE SETTING *TARPA* AND THE WORLD IN DANGER. HE MUST BE STOPPED!

BUT WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH US, DOC?

...GENERAL McCARTHY!

HA HA HA HA HA!

ME!

TARPA HEADQUARTERS, ONE WEEK LATER.

GENERAL McCARTHY HAS SET UP HIS OWN GOON SQUAD, DEVELOPING ROBOTS HE HOPES WILL EARN HIM A PROMOTION TO THE PENTAGON.

AS YOU CAN SEE GENERAL, THE TESTING OF OUR NEW MILITARY DROID HAS BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL.

FFVW

I WAS LUCKY TO GET THROUGH THEIR SECURITY.

IT'S INCREDIBLE...

HE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT SUCH AN IDIOT AS WE THOUGHT.

AFTER THE KILLALOT INCIDENT* HE'S DESPERATE TO DESTROY *TARPA*. THEN THERE WOULD BE NO-ONE TO DISCREDIT HIS ROBOTIC AMBITIONS. BUT WE COULD NEVER BEAT HIM USING FORCE.

*SEE *RWM* #3

WHAT DO YOU MEAN '*WE*'?

WE MEAN *YOU*, ADAM.

WHY ME?

YOU'VE ALREADY PROVED YOU CAN BREACH THEIR SECURITY. WE'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH A PROGRAM TO RUN, BUT YOU MUST GET INTO THAT MAINFRAME – *TARPA* AND HUNDREDS OF LIVES DEPEND UPON IT!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Illustration: John Ross Colour: Alan Craddock Script: Davey Moore

david hayles has a frightening encounter with a spooky rw team

are you scared yet?

SPECIFICATIONS

NAME: WITCH

ORIGIN: UNKNOWN

WEAPONRY: EXECUTIONER'S AXE POWERED BY MYSTICAL FORCES

METHOD OF ATTACK: APPEARS, LULLS OPPONENTS INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY, DISAPPEARS IN A PUFF OF SMOKE

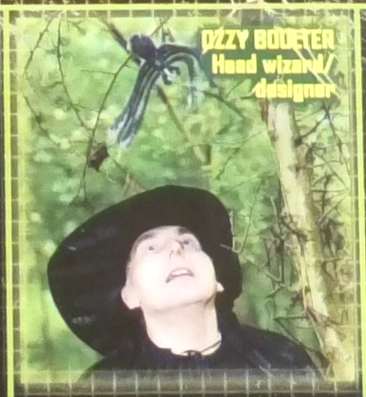
LAST CONFIRMED SIGHTING: FLOATING OUT OF THE DOORS OF RW TV STUDIO

It's dark and raining in the woods and I want my mummy. Our map with directions on has gone all soggy and the photographer thinks we're lost. We see something in the distance. It's a man dressed as a wizard, and he's running towards us. "I want my mummy too," the photographer says.

WITCHES CREW

The wizard in question is Ozzy Boulter, builder of Series III contestant robot The Witch. Along with fellow roboteers – daughter Emma, 13, and Andrew Nowlan, 12 – he's brought his re-vamped robot into the woods to test the weapon, a mighty chopping axe.

"The robot has got a sensor on it," Ozzy says, "so it has pretty much got a mind of its own. Anything could happen."



OZZY BOULTER
Head wizard/designer

WIZ-KIDS

So why make his first robot The Wizard (for Series II) and the second a witch? "I thought of doing a circular robot, so it wouldn't get trapped in corners," Ozzy explains. "I looked at my design and I thought, it looks like a cake tin, how can I change it? I started messing around with different shapes and the triangular shape came from that." You don't think maybe an other-worldly force influenced you? "Who can say, maybe..." Ozzy's voice trails off.

"It looked like a **CAKE TIN!**"

"The others thought we were **WEIRD**"

SPELL CHECK

His daughter, Emma, wearing a witch's cloak and hat, is in charge of controlling the robot. "My brother was the driver first of all (of The Wizard). They thought he would be a better driver, but he drove it straight into the pit." What sort of reaction did The Witch get? "The other roboteers thought it was weird and that we were a bit crazy. But they grew to like it."

They drag the robot out of the woods into a clearing, where the team start dancing around it like they're casting spells. After getting hammered in their first fight in Series III, will this make them invincible during Series IV? "I don't know about invincible," Ozzy says. "I hope it will get through the audition at least".

GROOVY GHOULIES

Darkness is closing in. It is time to take the robot back to the workshop, but it looks like it doesn't want to go. As he heads over to pick it up, as if driven by a strange force, Ozzy breaks into a run. The axe bumps him on the forehead and he flies backwards into a tree, stunned, his cape flying up around him. A branch bends back under him, then springs up, flinging Ozzy upright again.

Emma and Andrew giggle and Ozzy shrugs as if nothing out of the ordinary has happened. Axe works then.

A couple of days later the photographer calls. "The Witch has shown up in the background of one of the photos," he says, "and I don't remember us putting it there." Neither do I...

EMMA BOULTER
Controller of spells

ANDREW NOWLAN
Apprentice wizard

THE EVENTS DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE DID NOT HAPPEN: THE ROBOT WITCH IS NOT OPERATED BY SUPERNATURAL FORCES! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OPERATE ROBOTS WITHOUT PROPER SUPERVISION

SUDDEN IMPACT

ORIGIN
Based on the small shunting engine used to push trains around a railyard, Shunt's eventual design adapted several of the elements from cartoonist Tom Carney's original pictures, including the smoke stack and plough

when push comes to shove, don't expect any mercy from shunt

SPECIFICATIONS

NAME	SHUNT
WEIGHT	105KG
LENGTH	135CM
WIDTH	85CM
HEIGHT	63CM
SPEED	16KM/H

WEAPONRY
HAND FORGED, HARDENED STEEL AXE DELIVERING A BLOW OF 500KG PER SQUARE CM

METHOD OF ATTACK
FULL FORCE RAM AND DEVASTATING AXE BLOW

SMOKE STACK
For Series I and II this was made out of a plastic cola bottle, before being replaced with a proper metal stack in Series III. It is often knocked off if the axe retracts with a piece of bot attached

UPGRADES
Shunt's shell will change shape very slightly for Series IV, to incorporate new valves and drive motors. "The body is so battered from Series III," says designer and operator Malcolm James, "that most of it is held together with superglue!"

AXE
Attached just a few days before filming, the axe in Series I was operated with a basic pneumatic piston on a lever. By Series II the axe arm was longer.

For Series III, the steel tubing arm was replaced with top-grade aircraft aluminium which won't bend even after several big whacks! A heavier steel axe head was also added

BUCKET SCOOP
Used for lifting robots, but also for freeing Shunt's axe if it sticks in another robot, by pushing up on the axe arm

SNOWPLOUGH
Regular snowplough made lethal with curved, spiky edges

>who's behind SHUNT?

MALCOLM JAMES, DESIGNER/OPERATOR

>What is Shunt's role – to push, chop, or both?
>When we first built it, the axe wasn't a major feature – Shunt was meant to be more of a battering ram, but the lift and axe at the back have become the working end – so now it drives around backwards!

>The axe is a fearsome weapon.
>It's better than the Mortis axe. It did quite a bit of damage to the arena in the last series. One of the production crew came up and said "Stop hitting the floor!" It was splintering the frame underneath.

>Shunt can be a bit of a softy sometimes.
>If a robot is on fire he'll push them to where the fire extinguishers are. Also, if a robot is in trouble, Shunt might try to help.

>House robots helping!?
>Once Cassius got a wheel stuck on the edge of the pit. Everyone thought I was going to push him in but I used my front snowplough to free the wheel and off he went.

>How do you think Shunt got on in Series III?
>I was disappointed not to have a go at Hypno-Disc. I think I could have definitely stopped him with my axe.

"It's good to BATTLE!"

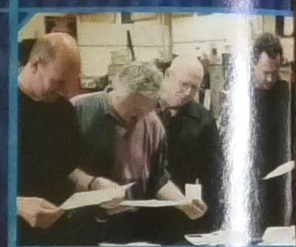
>Have you had a favourite moment driving Shunt?
>Putting holes in Panic Attack! That was satisfying. It's good when they push you, and you have to counter-attack.

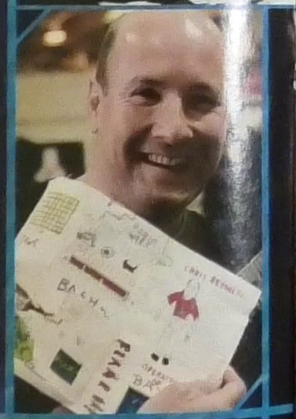
>How did you feel when Shunt got flipped by Chaos 2?
>I think it's important to show the house robots aren't perfect. Besides, I got him back in the World Championships when I punctured his CO_2 canister!

>Shunt doesn't seem to shy away from fighting.
> It's good to earn some battle scars!

BASH COMPETITION WINNER

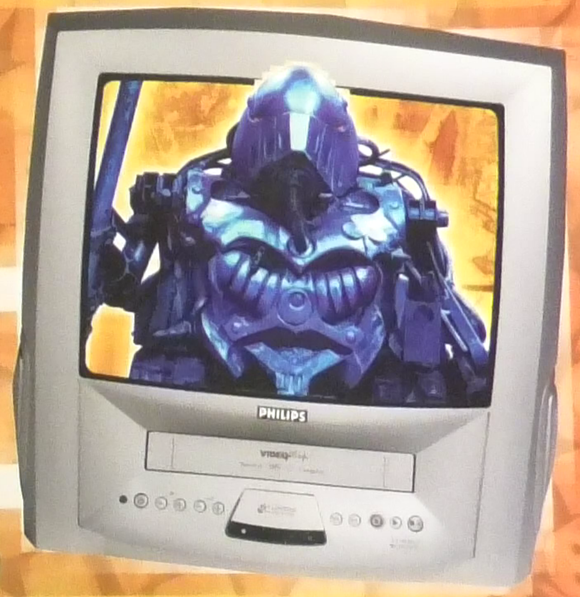
Sgt Bash operators Chris Reynolds and Micky Edwards had to look at hundreds of pictures before choosing a winner of RWM's competition to win a signed bit of Bash. They were so impressed with the entries that they are seriously considering using some of the ideas when they upgrade Bash. In the end, Chris chose Alex Jones' design (pictured), saying he would like to install the spinning disc at the back. Also commended were Milan Topalovic, Gabriel Merryfield, Stuart Kennett, Nicholas Roberts, Lisa Newman, Marc Davies, and Ian Baillie, who drew a picture of Chris that is now hanging in the Visual Effects office. They will all get a special signed print of Chris, Micky and the Sarge himself.





TELL US ABOUT RWM

We want to know what you think of Robot Wars Magazine. Fill out the form below so we can find out what you like and dislike about the mag. One lucky entrant will win a fantastic Philips TV/Video combo to watch the next series of RW on!



1 Are you: Male ☐1 Female ☐2

2 Please write in your date of birth: Day .... Month .... Year ....

3 How did you first find out about Robot Wars Magazine?
- From a friend ☐1
- Saw it in a shop ☐2
- A relative bought it for me ☐3
- Heard about it on television ☐4
- From FBX Magazine ☐5
- Saw advert in another magazine (not FBX) ☐6
- Heard about it through Robot Wars Club 7
- Other (please tell us how) .....

4 Where did you buy this copy of Robot Wars Magazine?
- High Street Store (e.g. WHSmith, Woolworths etc.) ☐1
- Local Newsagent ☐2
- Supermarket ☐3
- Don't know (someone else bought it) ☐4
- Can't remember ☐5
- Subscription ☐6
- Bought it in another place (please tell us where) .....

5 Who bought this issue of Robot Wars Magazine?
I did ☐1 Mum/Dad ☐2 Another relative ☐3
A friend ☐4 Other (please tell us who) .....

6 This is the 4th issue of Robot Wars Magazine. Including this one, how many issues of RWM have you bought so far?
One ☐1 Two ☐2 Three ☐3 Four ☐4

7 Do you think you will buy Robot Wars Magazine again?
Yes, definitely ☐1 Maybe ☐2 No, definitely not ☐3
If no, why not? Please write your answer on the lines here
.....
.....

8 If YES or MAYBE to Q7, how often do you think you will buy Robot Wars Magazine in the future?
Always or almost always ☐1 Quite often ☐2 Only occasionally ☐3

9 How many other people will read your copy of RWM? .....

10 How much do you like these regular items in Robot Wars Magazine?

	Like a lot	Quite like	Don't really like
Comic Strip	☐1	☐2	☐3
Robot Report	☐1	☐2	☐3
Contestant robot profiles	☐1	☐2	☐3
House robot profiles	☐1	☐2	☐3
Interviews with house robot operators	☐1	☐2	☐3
Interviews with makers of RW TV Show	☐1	☐2	☐3
A-Z of Robots	☐1	☐2	☐3
Competitions	☐1	☐2	☐3
Fantasy Fight	☐1	☐2	☐3
Classic Clash	☐1	☐2	☐3
Static	☐1	☐2	☐3
Posters	☐1	☐2	☐3
Info on real-life robots	☐1	☐2	☐3
Robot Wars Club page	☐1	☐2	☐3
Free cover gifts	☐1	☐2	☐3

11 Thinking about the cover price of £1.50, to what extent do you think Robot Wars Magazine offers value for money?
- Very good value for money ☐1
- Quite good value for money ☐2
- Not very good value for money ☐3

12 Do you think Robot Wars Magazine contains the right amount of pages?
- Too few ☐1
- Just right ☐2
- Too many ☐3

13 How often do you read the following magazines?

	Always (at least 3 out of four issues)	Often (about 2 out of four issues)	Occasionally (at least 1 out of four issues)	Rarely (less than 1 out of four issues)	Never
FBX	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5
Shoot	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5
Match	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5
Official Playstation	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5
Beano	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5
Dandy	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5

Name .....
Address .....
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(If you don't want to cut up your copy of RWM, please photocopy this form)

ROBOT WARS CLUB

LONDON W1P OLD TEL 0207 323 9435

CLUB NEWS

Since Series III, Robot Wars Club membership has swelled to over 30,000. It's not just the UK fans that love the show. The Club now has people joining from all over the world from as far afield as Holland, South Africa, Australia and the USA.

If you want to join up and know the score in time for Series IV, you can do so online - just go to the Robot Wars website at **www.robotwars.co.uk** and remember, Club members can buy merchandise at special reduced prices.

LUCKY NUMBERS

If one of the member numbers below is yours, contact the club on **0207 323 9435** to claim a free RW goody bag!

000100	021678	002797	028542	022653
000121	001241	025609	029460	018280
018993	021703	027483	029461	018266
018997	002748	028538	002816	029084

CHAMPS ON LEAVE

The Beast Of Bodmin team, who became the first UK Robot Wars Champions with Road Block in Series I, have decided not to enter the new series due to other commitments. Chris and Hender are busy at university, while Peter is changing careers to be a Supply Teacher Consultant. Firm favourites in the pits and on screen, here's hoping they'll all be back for Series V!

JOIN US!

Become a member of the official Robot Wars Club. For £12.95 per year you'll get:

- CLUB NEWSLETTER
- METALLIC RW BADGE
- MEMBERSHIP CARD
- US ROBOT WARS VIDEO
- DISCOUNTS ON RW MERCHANDISE & OTHER OFFERS

Fill out the form below and send it to the Club address on the right.

CAPTION COMPETITION

What on earth is Craig saying in this picture? Scribble something funny down (and nothing rude!) then send it to the Club address below. The funniest one wins a baseball cap and record bag.

For Club enquiries, please do not contact Robot Wars Magazine. Speak directly to:

ROBOT WARS CLUB, LONDON W1P OLD

0207 323 9435

I want to join the Robot Wars Club ☐ I am interested in building a robot ☐
I enclose a cheque/postal order for £12.95 made payable to Robot Wars.
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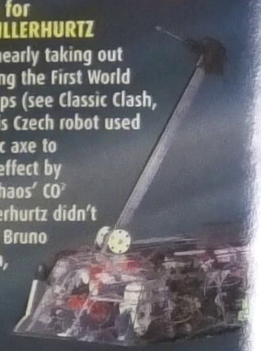
a of z CONTESTANT ROBOTS

j is for JUDGE SHRED

Shred's two clipper weapons and rear axe might certainly looked scary, but unfortunately this audience favourite was knocked out after winning just one fight. So RWM is giving you another chance to see the cool-looking robot that looks like a head-on collision between a food mixer and the surface of Mars.

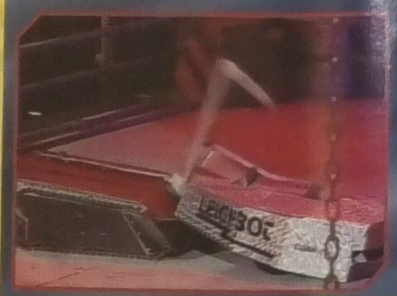
k is for KILLERHURTZ

Famous for nearly taking out Chaos 2 during the First World Championships (see Classic Clash, RWM #1), this Czech robot used its pneumatic axe to devastating effect by puncturing Chaos' CO^2 canister. Killerhurtz didn't win, but like Bruno hurting Tyson, it gave it a good shot.



l is for LEIGHBOT

Leighbot, driven by teenagers Robin Williams and Chris Maylon, reached the semi-finals of its heat in Series I, but came a cropper up against Mortis. "Leighbot? Pepper pot!" Jonathan Pearce exclaimed as the bot was cut another air vent. Mortis then flipped poor Leighbot on its back and it was all over. However, Mortis suffered damage to its blade from attacking Leighbot, which can't be bad.



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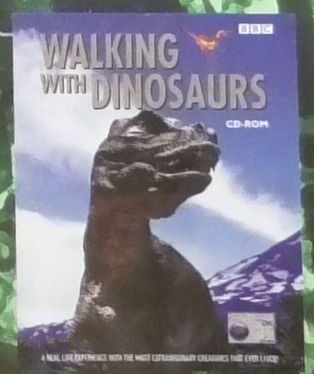

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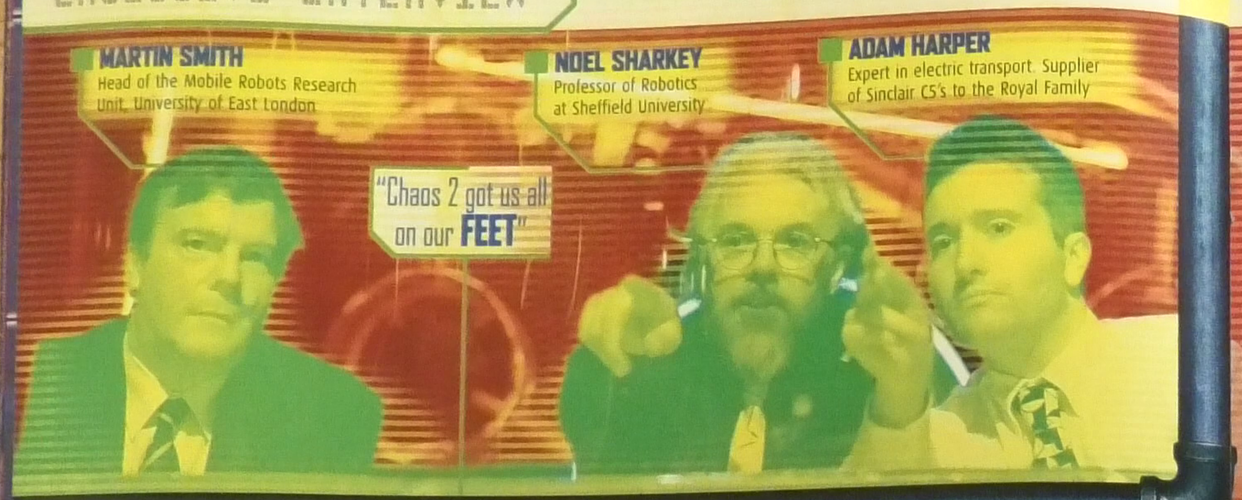
BBC

1. MATILDA

WEIGHT ▮▮ 116KG
LENGTH ▮▮ 140CM
WIDTH ▮▮ 66CM
HEIGHT ▮▮ 66CM
SPEED ▮▮ 19KM/H
NAVIGATION ▮▮ TANK STEERING
METHOD OF ATTACK ▮▮ STRIKE WITH TUSKS AT SPEED AND FLIP
PROTOTYPE NAME ▮▮ SHARON

the fate of the roboteers lies in their hands – rwm meets the judges



MARTIN SMITH
Head of the Mobile Robots Research Unit, University of East London

NOEL SHARKEY
Professor of Robotics at Sheffield University

ADAM HARPER
Expert in electric transport. Supplier of Sinclair C5's to the Royal Family

"Chaos 2 got us all on our **FEET**"

JUDGEMENT DAY!

>Has it been more work since the show got bigger?
AH Absolutely. In the first series we could just wander around eating cakes and drinking coffee. For the third series, we've actually got our own 'runners' or assistants that we call our 'guards'. If we want to even go to the loo, a runner has to go with us!

>Do you get recognised at all?
NS Yes, quite a lot. No matter where I go in the UK, I can usually hear someone saying "Robot Wars!" in the background or shouting at me. I am amazed by the attention and I have not been threatened over any of my decisions – YET!
AH I would probably get recognised more if I had a ponytail and a white beard!
MS Someone said, "Aren't you the one who sits next to that man with long grey hair and a beard?"!

>Any tips for roboteers hoping to sway the judges?!
NS Clever driving that makes use of chance opportunities and the use of damaging aggression.
AH In the second series, someone actually offered me a boiled sweet, and I've got to admit – I took it!

>What should anyone interested in building a robot for RW be doing?
NS The important thing is to have as broad a knowledge as possible. But it doesn't matter what knowledge you have – it's the way you use it. If you are a biologist you can look at insects and design a robot based on that. And the best way to do it is to build Lego robots. Everyone's got Lego.

"Build robots from **LEGO**"

>Finally, Noel, why do you always wear your tie over your shoulder?!
NS I do that for safety and dirt prevention when I'm looking at machines, and then forget. Sometimes, though, when we're waiting for a fight to start, one of the other judges puts it over my shoulder when I'm not looking!

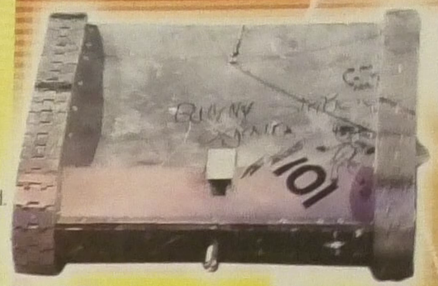
DANGEROUS DECISIONS

hypno-disc v 101
The judges, for the first time, had to go into the arena to inspect damage after a Hypno-Disc v 101 battle for that all important place in the finals. Hypno was ruled the winner, but many felt 101 had come off better.

dreadnought v trident
This ended in chaos as Trident, after leading the fight, was pulverized by the house robots. For a few inutes Dreadnought thought they'd won, but the judges came through in favour of Trident.

sir chromalot v shell shock
A tough call followed a tough match, and the crowd's booing said it all! Check out Classic Clash on p22-23 and judge for yourself!

big brother v ultor
The judges' decision on Ultor beating Big Brother was overruled by the roboteers after Ultor withdrew to allow BB through.



>Do you get to enjoy the fights, or are you too busy concentrating?
MS I really get into the battles, particularly where it is one type of technology against another, such as a gas-powered lifter against a petrol chainsaw. But it does require one hundred percent concentration.
AH It is hard work, mentally. Camera angles and close-ups can make fights look completely different. People who watch it on TV sometimes disagree about the judgements, because they don't see it first-hand.

>Have you had any big disagreements on the outcome of a fight?
NS Most of the decisions that we make are difficult ones.
AH We take it deadly seriously, and yes, we've had some arguments. When we don't agree with one another, things get pretty heated!

"The really boring one **WINS**"

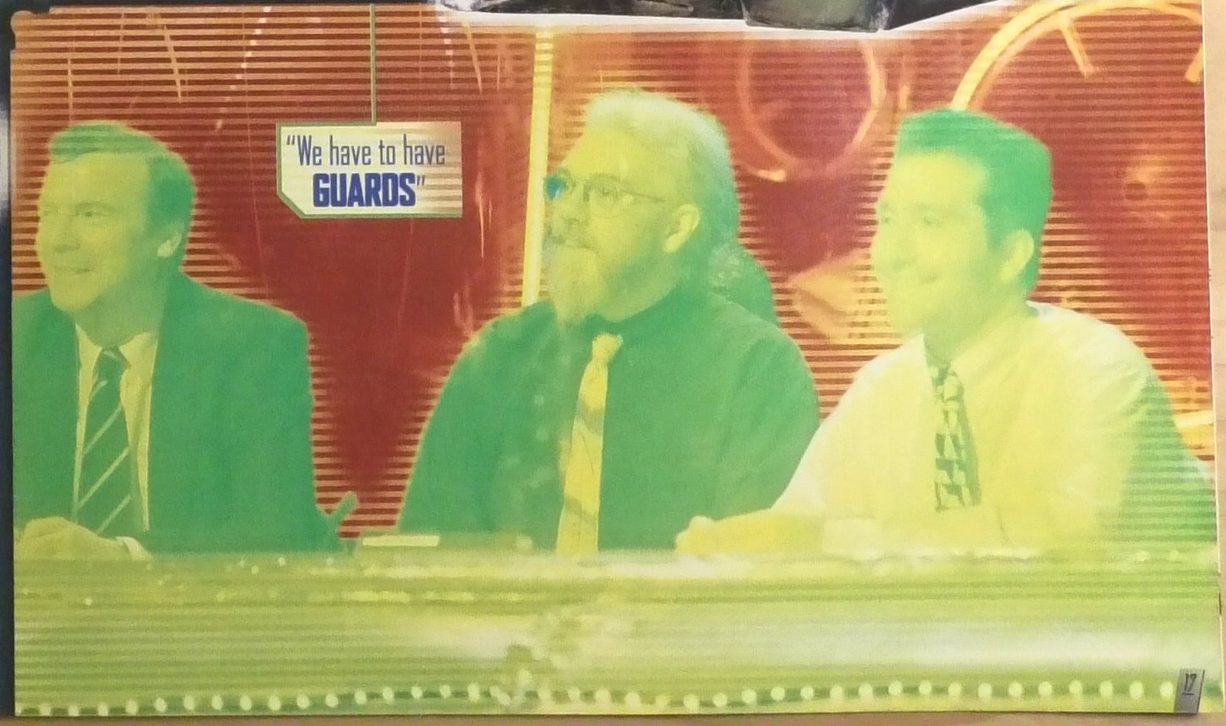
MS Some contestants said they wouldn't like to have judged the winner of their own battles.

"I was offered a **SWEET**"

>Is it just a question of deciding which robot does the most damage?
NS It is rarely as simple as that. Many of the battles are very close and we have to watch them a number of times on the monitors, counting the number of hits. Control is also very important.
MS Sometimes a robot makes a very big display of beating up the other robot for a few seconds. This is what the audience notices most, but we have to look at the whole six minutes. Sometimes the really boring one wins on points.

>Was there a show highli[illegible] for you in Series III?
NS The one that sticks in the m[illegible] that really took us by surprise was Hypno-Disc's clash with Stealth. There were pieces of shrapnel flying at the judges' box. We had to duck under the table at one point!
AH Stealth had to be swept up, put into a box and given back to the contestant – he was not a happy person as you can imagine!
MS It couldn't have been better, could it? Both Hypno-Disc and Chaos 2 were stunningly successful and then they met in the final.
NS When Chaos 2 flung its opponent out of the ring and turned over the house robots, that got us all on our feet!

Unhealthy Stealth...



"We have to have **GUARDS**"

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SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

IS CRAIG A ROBOT?

RW writer nathan cockerill thinks craig is not all he seems...

Have you ever thought how much Craig Charles looks like Sir Killalot? They've got the same smooth forehead, the same piercing eyes. And who was Craig Charles' best friend in Red Dwarf? Exactly – Kryten, a robot. Which is why, when RWM got hold of shocking evidence suggesting Craig Charles is actually a robot, we had to investigate.

COFFEE TO GO

RWM discovered a blueprint from the BBC Visual Effects Unit, showing exactly how Craig Charles works, right down to the unique way he is fuelled by hot beverages. The caffeine from the drinks is converted into power by a process that even Carol Vorderman couldn't explain. "Well... there's a sort of sciencey thingymajig. Oh, I don't know, ask me a maths question!" she said.

TALK IS CHEAP

No-one at the Visual Effects Unit would comment officially on whether the blueprints were real. However, one employee (who, for his own safety we'll call 'Bob' rather than his real name, Ron Cousins), agreed to talk.

"Tiny **MOTORS** make his body move"

MAN MACHINE

Bob says 'Project Host' was a top-secret mission to develop a cheaper, more environmentally friendly TV presenter. "During the making of a TV programme such as Robot Wars," explains Bob, "real presenters will eat and drink up to 400 sarnies, four gallons of orange squash and 17 crates of biscuits, dropping wrappers everywhere. All our host bots need are several cups of coffee and a change of oil every 12,000 miles."

HOST WITH THE MOST

Bob also revealed that Craig Charles isn't the first robotic TV presenter to have been produced by Project Host. Earlier prototype models include Jeremy Clarkson. Although 'Clarkson Version 1.3 GTi' got on well with all the robots on Robot Wars, he was not so good with humans.

Bob believes they may have cracked it with Charles. "Craig seems to be very popular with audiences. Obviously we're still working on the accent, and he has to wear a long coat because we haven't finished the backs of his legs yet."

"We haven't finished Craig's **LEGS** yet"

PARANOID ANDROID

It was time we approached the man (or is he?) himself. Craig Charles refused to comment AND failed to provide us with baby photos which may have proved he was human after all. That could mean one of two things – either he is an android, or he was simply a very ugly baby. Add to this the fact that his name is an anagram of 'car's chair leg' and you have absolute proof that he's a man machine! Probably.

Illustrator John Ross. Colour Alan Craddock. Script Davey Moore

It's Heat D, Series III, with a tortoise v a cake tin!

CHROME ALONE

SIR CHROMALOT

SPECS

Weight	79 kg
Dimensions	0.66 X 0.68 m
Weapons	Cobalt cutter
Origin	Essex
Notes	Cost £3000
Team	Steve Merrick – Captain Steve Smith, Dave Whithead
Opinion	"This is a winner," says Steve Smith. "We will make mincemeat of the other robots"

"Ahhh **BRILLIANT**, superb gymnastics, the backflip was super"

SCREAMS OUT AN EXCITED PEARCE

SHELL SHOCK

SPECS

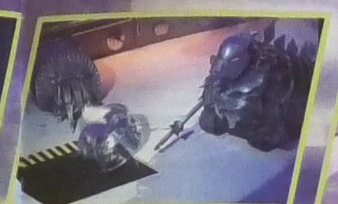
Weight	56 kg
Dimensions	0.44 X 0.82 X 0.8 m
Weapons	Electrically powered axe
Origin	Colchester
Notes	Sheet steel shell
Team	Oliver Young – Captain Paul Logan, Richard Wilson
Opinion	Confident captain Oliver Young claims the robot is a "lethal, steel killing machine"

Eager Sir Chromalot speeds across the arena and spikes slow-moving Shell Shock

"Oliver Young can't be finding this funny," says Jonathan Pearce as Shell Shock gets a serious roasting from Sgt Bash

Sir Chromalot hands Shell Shock over to fellow knight Sir Killalot, who picks it up, throws it down, and leaves it for dead

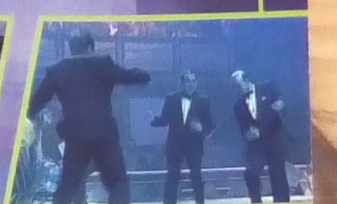
But Chromalot is strangely still, and smoke begins to pour out. "I think they're on fire," says a mystified Pearce



Matilda and Sir Killalot approach with caution – then slowly tip Sir Chromalot into the dreaded pit

Pearce is shocked. "Should the house robots have got involved? They shouldn't have left their CPZs!" he exclaims

Chromalot's cake is baked and the audience cheer. But does this mean the demolished Shell Shock wins?



The judges rule in favour of Chromalot and the audience boo. "Grown men, are you sure?" Pearce asks

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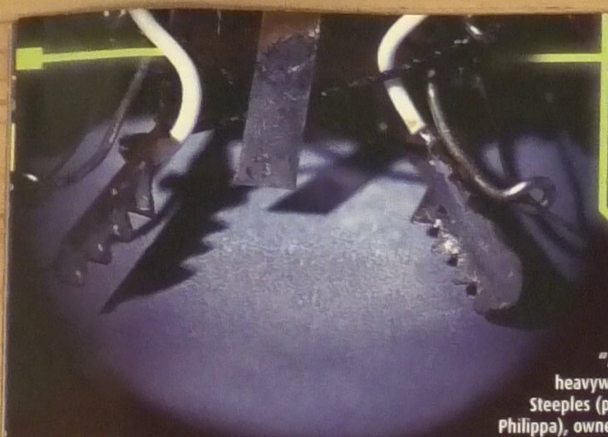
forget heavyweight bots, the future of robot wars may only be 10cm long...

CREEPERS!

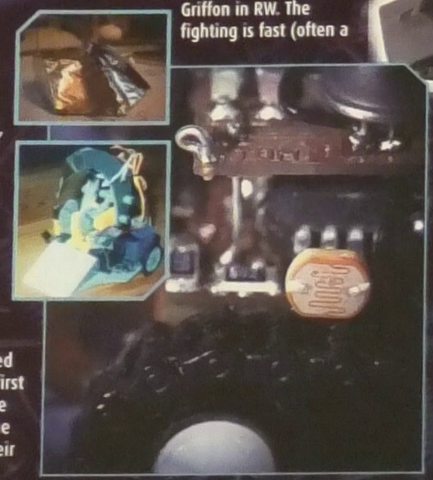


Ants – insects well known for their community spirit and nasty bites. They are strong for their size, which makes them good models for robots. MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab – centre of the robotics world – has been building an army of 'microbots' which they call 'Ants'. These bugs are 1 cubic-inch robots built to act like the real thing.

BATTLE BUGS

The Ants are equipped with light, bump, food and tilt sensors and 'talk' using infra-red. Weighing 28g, these truly are 'Antweight' bots.

Adam Clark, who's already taken part in RW with Corporal Punishment, saw these Ants and wanted to fight them. He built a 140g robot called Toecutter. With a lifting scoop as a weapon, the first Antweight-class fighting robot was built. Over the last 2 years, the popularity of Ants has grown. The principles are the same as for normal RW, but their size is limited to fit inside a 4-inch (10cm) cube.



Pics © Oliver Steeples and Peter Collier

The arena is only a 1m² with open sides, which means they can be set up anywhere.

EAR-WIG-O!

"Ants are easier to carry than heavyweights," says Oliver Steeples (pictured right, with Philippa), owner of 3 Ants and Griffon in RW. The fighting is fast (often a minute or less) and furious. So far, all the Ants battles have been settled through combat, with no judges' decisions. At last year's Antweight World Series, the whole event was over in 30 minutes with Oliver's Odyssey the champ. "Odyssey is my main bot. It was undefeated in the World Series," says Oliver.

"The great thing about Ants is that you need less cash and time to build one. An Ant can be made in an evening from just a few bits and pieces."

RAZER BLADE

But Ant maker Alan Parkin says building one isn't easy! "The weight is the biggest problem. Once you have the drive in, most of the 150g is gone. And you've still got a weapon to add."

Alan's Ant, Close Shave, may look familiar to RW fans. "It's a baby version of Razer. The main weapon is a mechanical arm with a Stanley knife blade as the tip."

Ants caused quite a stir when one was found in the audience during the Third Wars, remembers Julian Corrie, another World Series competitor with TyrAnt, "Philippa said it was sweet!"

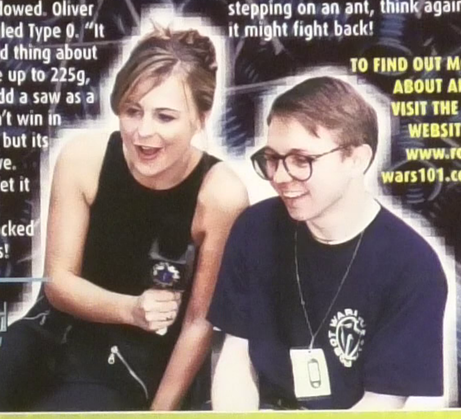
WALK SMALL

Walkers are also allowed. Oliver Steeples owns one called Type 0. "It weighs 160g. The good thing about walkers is they can be up to 225g, which allows me to add a saw as a weapon." Type 0 didn't win in the first World Series, but its moves were impressive. Only the lack of grip let it down, and it was still going after being knocked off the table six times!

So what does the future hold for these microbots? "They need to get recognised as an official weight class and get their own spot on the TV show," says Alan. "I don't think they'd last long against the likes of Killalot!"

So, next time you think of stepping on an ant, think again – it might fight back!

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ANTS, VISIT THE 101 WEBSITE AT www.robotwars101.co.uk



"PHILIPPA said it was SWEET"

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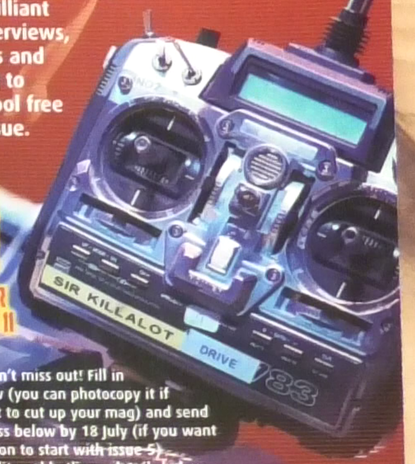

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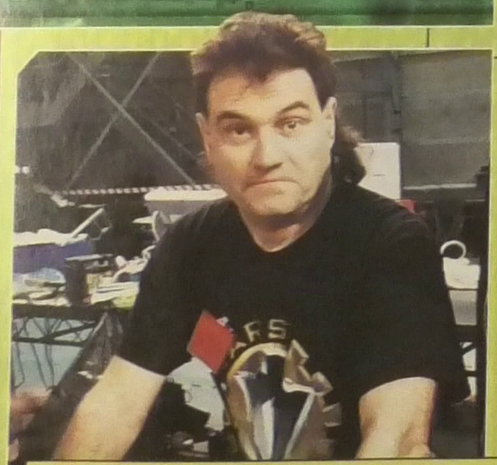

NAME MAT IRVINE
DATE OF BIRTH 07/07/48
OCCUPATION Technical Consultant
SELECTED TV CREDITS Tomorrow's World, QED, Horizon, Sky At Night, Swap Shop, Future Fantastic

IS THE SHOW DANGEROUS?
No more than Teletubbies. It just seems that way.

WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY DO?
Derek Foxwell and myself have produced all the rules, technical sheets, hints and tips since Series I. They were based on the American rules but with modifications.

We also work with the production team and the roboteers, from advising what the robots can be expected to do, to answering technical questions like "Where can I get a motor?" or "Why can't I use a flame thrower?"

"Why can't I use a FLAMETHROWER?"

During the filming all robots must be checked to make sure they are safe. We also run the test area where they can check out their robot and we can see if they can drive it!

HAVE YOU WORKED ON ANYTHING LIKE ROBOT WARS BEFORE?
Robot Wars is so unique, but I spent many years as a designer in the BBC's Visual Effects Unit, so I had dealt with most aspects that go into Robot Wars – just not all at the same time!

WHAT TIPS WOULD YOU GIVE TO NEW ROBOTEERS?
Plan before you start. Take note of what's gone before, but don't just follow winning ideas. Get a team around you who are good at the different aspects – design, mechanics, electrics and driving. Often the roboteers spend so long building, they forget someone has to drive it!

WHERE DO YOU SEE RW IN TEN YEARS?
The first four years have seen huge growth in the designs, quality and inventiveness of the robots. If it increases at the same rate, in ten years there will be some amazing creations! They could be completely autonomous – and they'll hover!

NEXT MONTH: DEREK FOXWELL, MAT'S FELLOW TECHNICAL CONSULTANT ON RW.

Do YOU want to ask something? Send your questions to Brain Scan, Robot Wars Magazine, Room A1130, BBC Worldwide, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT or e-mail us at rwm@bbc.co.uk. From Issue 6, Matt and Derek will be joining the RWM team to answer your questions every month, so if there's something you need to know about the rules, design, building or anything else, ask them!

STATIC

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LET'S TALK WARS!

MAILSHOT

Every letter we print receives a Robot Inventor's Handbook (worth £12.99) from Design Eye Publishing. Complete with templates, nuts and bolts, you'll be beating Sir Killalot in no time at all!

>> from J Bacond
On the next series there should be a tag team match with Chaos 2 and Hypno-Disc v Sgt Bash and Dead Metal. Also, what about flying robots in a match?
> Both are excellent ideas. In fact, since Series IV will be in a totally enclosed arena, there has been talk of having a flying house robot, so who knows?

>> from S Saliba
In Series III, why did they put the big flipper in the arena if it doesn't do any damage to any of the robots anyway?
> RW producer Bill Hobbins says, "The flipper was used to flip robots *after* they had been defeated, and it flipped loads!"

>> from Marven McNeill
In the next series, I think the house robots should face-off in a battle, with the winner taking on the series' champion.
> Lots of you have written in with the idea of a royal rumble, but have you thought about the result of such total carnage? There'd be only one house bot left!

>> from S Henley
Has anyone thought of letting the winning robot of one series join the sides of the house robots in the next series? It would be a good prize and give the house bots a well-earned break.
> We don't think Sir K and his crew would think much of that... RWM has visions of scrap metal and brutal bullying. The arena isn't the playground, these bots mean business!

TALKING POINT: MOUTHING OFF!

Fans visiting WWW.ROBOTWARS.CO.UK have been busy trying to decide which was the best piece of commentary from Jonathan Pearce in Series III...

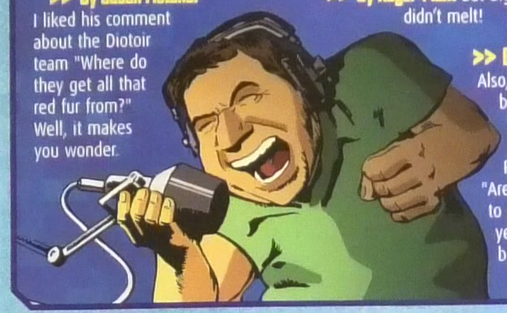
>> By Toastar Some of Jonathan's puns for pitbull were great. He got all these in: mad dog, sheep-dog, hot-dog, biting the furniture...

>> By Jason Fletcher I liked his comment about the Diotoir team "Where do they get all that red fur from?" Well, it makes you wonder.

>> By Pete The funniest quote had to be in the fight between the Big Cheese and Chaos 2: "How do you like your cheese, melted?"

>> By Roger Plant But Big Cheese didn't melt!

>> By Pete Also, the fight between Napalm and Robopig. "Are we going to see it... yes! Smoky bacon!"

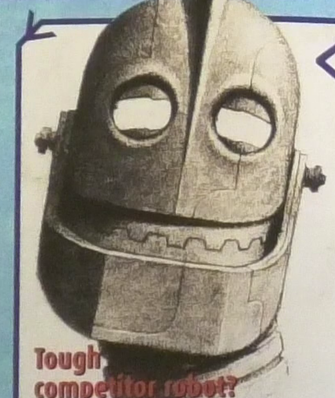


HUGH MANOID
THE MAN WHO LOVES TO HATE ROBOT WARS

When I heard there was going to be a fourth series of Robot Wars I thought 'Enough is enough! Time to end the madness!' My plan was build my own robot, get to the finals, then detonate the flurbelgurzer nuclear combustion device I had installed into it, thus destroying all things Robot Wars! Unfortunately, the flurbelgurzer went off by accident while I was making the bot. I'm not happy, I can tell you. The man who sold me the device said it would flatten everything in a five mile radius, and all it did was set fire to my hair and blow the roof off my garden shed. Looks like Series IV will go ahead after all. Hurumph!

SMART ALEX

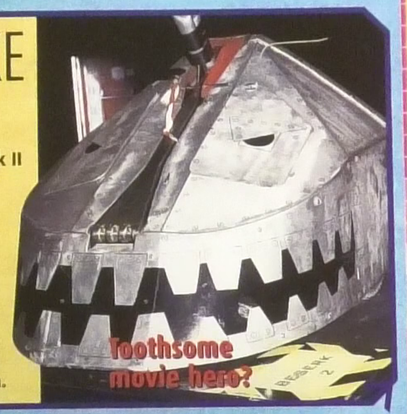
>>This month RWM wants to pay tribute to a real Robot Wars fan, five-year-old Alex Cowan. In true RW spirit and in keeping with advice from RW judge Noel Sharkey, Alex has set up an arena at home and built loads of bots – a 'craft' series, 'claybot' series, BrioMec and a Lego series. Battling it out below are Phlipps (named after Philippa Forrester and for its self-righting flipper!), Super Sonic II, Slice, Mincer and Legolegs. So, who is the bloke in the red hat? Our Craig of course!



Tough competitor robot?

ROBOLIKE

Anyone notice the similarity between competitor robot Berserk II and cartoon character The Iron Giant? While Berserk II won two fights in its heat in Series III, the Giant won the hearts of cinema audiences across the country as the massive bot with a heart of gold. Aaaaaaah.

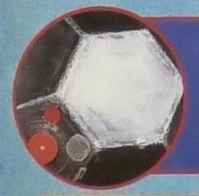


Toothsome movie hero?

SYSTEM CHECK

Read the mag? Then answer these teasers [answers given below]!
01 Who overruled the judges' decision on Ultor beating Big Brother?
02 Who is Lister's pal in Red Dwarf?
03 Does Mat Irvine see the bots in the air or underwater in 10 years?
04 How big is the ant bots' arena?
05 What's the name of the first robot built by the Witch team?

< BIT-O-BOT



Which bot is this a bit of? Look at the bottom of the page to see if you're right

"You can shut your windows and lock your doors but you'll never escape from Robot Wars!"

ANSWERS

BIT-O-BOT it's Armour Geddon!
SYSTEM CHECK
1. The robotects, as Ultor withdrew to allow 88 through
2. Kryten
3. Hovering in the air
4. 1m²
5. The Wizard

THE BIG BALLOT

We ask the questions and YOU give the answers. This month, WHICH TEAM IS THE FUNNIEST? From what you told us, those Irish fellas in their silly costumes gave us loads of laughs, with Team Plunderbird a chucklesome second.

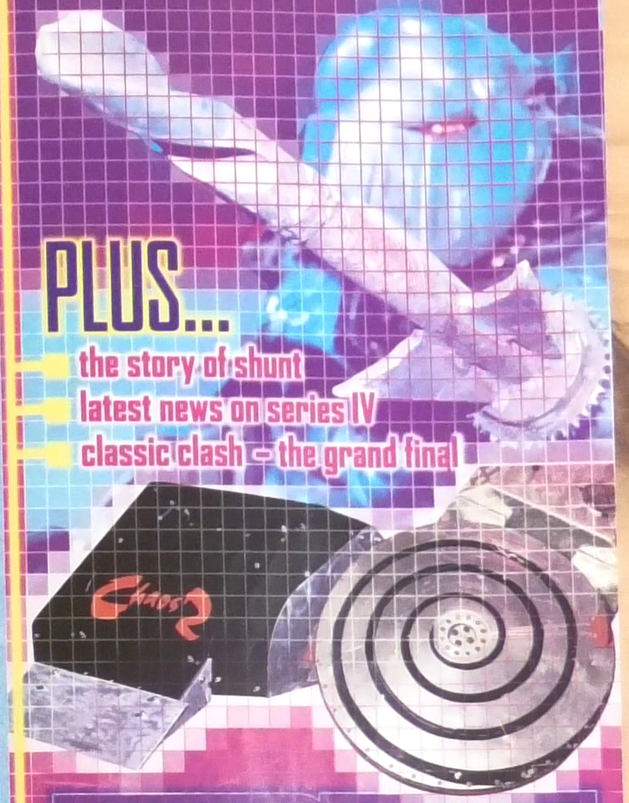
CHAOS 19%	SIR CHROMALOT 17%	DIOTIOR 28%	MORTIS 12%	PLUNDERBIRD 24%

NEXT MONTH Which is the wackiest robot? E-mail or post your answer to the address at the top of the page

NEXT MONTH

all you'll ever need to know about

SIR KILLALOT

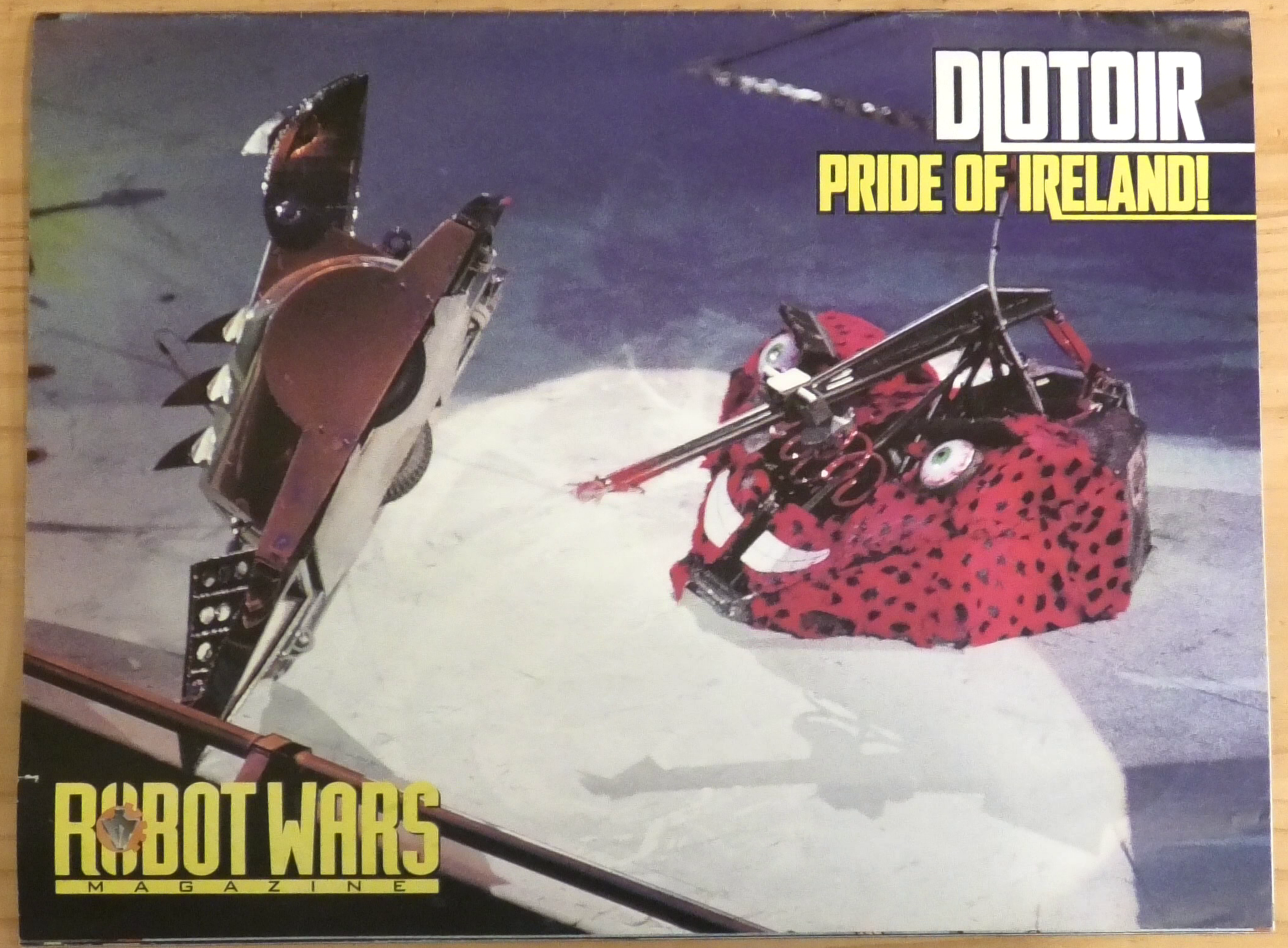


PLUS...

the story of shunt
latest news on series IV
classic clash – the grand final

FREE HOLOGRAPHIC KEYRING

RWM ISSUE 5
ON SALE 26-07-00


DIOTOIR
PRIDE OF IRELAND!
ROBOT WARS
MAGAZINE